

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 OC-06 CCO-00

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R 251355Z APR 77

FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1652

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDON DERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 139

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, ELAB, UK, EI

SUBJECT: GENERAL STRIKE THREAT

REF: (A) BELFAST 131 (B) BELFAST 130

1. IRISH TIMES APRIL 25 FEATURES FRONT-PAGE ARTICLE BY NORTHERN EDITOR DAVID MC KITTRICK THAT LOYALISTS INTEND TO STAGE A GENERAL STRIKE FOR AN INDEFINITE PERIOD NEXT MONTH. STRIKE WOULD BE MOUNTED BY UNIONIST ACTION COUNCIL (UAC), MODELED ON 1974 ULSTER WORKERS COUNCIL STRIKE AND WOULD BE AIMED PRIMARILY AT PUBLIC SERVICES SUCH AS ELECTRICITY AND GASOLINE DISTRIBUTION. BELFAST SUNDAY NEWS APRIL 24 CARRIED ARTICLE REPORTING ULSTER LOYALIST CENTRAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE THAT INCLUDES ILLEGAL ULSTER VOLUNTEER FORCE AND SMALL ORANGE VOLUNTEERS ORGANIZATION HAD EXPRESSED SOLIDARITY WITH UAC. ALTHOUGH ARTICLE DID NOT MENTION STRIKE PLANS, UVF PARTICIPATION WITH ULSTER DEFENSE ASSOCIATION WOULD MEAN INVOLVEMENT OF THE TWO LARGEST AND STRONGEST LOYALIST PARAMILITARY GROUPS.

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2. MC KITTRICK IS MOST KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT LOYALIST PARAMILITARY ORGANIZATIONS AND PLANS. HE IS ON LESS SOLID GROUND HOWEVER WHEN HE SPECULATES ON POLITICAL MOTIVES OR STRATEGY. MC KITTRICK SEES STRIKE AS DESIGNED TO BRING ABOUT IMPLEMENTATION OF CONVENTION MAJORITY REPORT AND RETURN OF DEVOLVED GOVERNMENT. HE ARGUES THAT STRIKE ORGANIZERS SEE BRITISH GOVERNMENT GIVING IN TO THIS PRESSURE AND ENDING

DIRECT RULE. IF ORGANIZERS WERE UNITED IN DESIRE FOR
INDEPENDENCE THIS MIGHT BE CORRECT REASONING. HOWEVER ERNEST
BAIRD PROBABLY AND IAN PAISLEY CERTAINLY DO NOT RPT NOT
WANT BRITISH TO WASH THEIR HANDS OF ULSTER. IT ALSO UNLIKELY
THAT PRESENT NORTHERN IRELAND ADMINISTRATION (MASON) WOULD
PERMIT LEVEL OF INTIMIDATION THAT ACCOUNTED FOR MUCH OF SUCCESS
OF 1974 STRIKE.

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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